

The purpose of this MOD 4 Amendment is to answer questions from prospective Offerors. The questions and responses are incorporated into Solicitation No. GS00Q-13-DR-0002 - ON-RAMP (POOL 2).

1. For very new certified small businesses with little to no "past performance" contracts, will the government accept relevant individual resume experience of the founder/owner (for instance Logistics Projects while in the US Army) as past performance?

Response: No

2. The cost and price spreadsheet template is populated using 2.13% escalation, derived in some manner from historical Employment Cost Index data. We feel that recent history does not limit the future, and that general inflation levels are likely to rise above that 2.13% figure starting soon. Due to the risk associated with long timelines, and our feelings about future inflation, we feel that using a larger escalation factor in some years is appropriate. L.5.6.1 (e) says not to change the escalation factor. How should we work the template to accommodate our feelings?

Response: You may not adjust the spreadsheet escalation factor. Doing so will make you ineligible for award. There is an adjustment cycle written into the contracts addressing escalation and it shall be universally applied to all Offerors and contract holders. Please note, rates only apply to sole source Time and Material task orders, which are not common.

3. Page 89, RFP Section L.5.2.1 Financial Resources, item 3.c. The requirement is to "Submit the last full fiscal year statement and subsequent interim statements." Our fiscal year is the calendar year. Since the proposal response is due on January 10 and we need to mail it that does not provide us enough time to close our books for 2016. Thus, please confirm that it is permissible to provide full year financial statements for 2015 (1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015) with interim financials for 2016 (1/1/2016 through 11/30/2016).

Response: This is acceptable.

4. As a GSA PSS schedule holder (with many financial management SINs), 8(a) and SDVOSB, we are very much interested in responding to OASIS Pool 2. We are requesting that GSA consider relaxing the project values to around \$90,000 and the combination of the projects to a lesser amount. Some of our projects are larger but others are not. This is true for many small businesses. We do many prime projects that are of smaller values but follow all of the accounting and auditing practices. As an example, we have attached our past performance for the HHS Payroll audit that would like to use and receive points for but it is a bit smaller than \$150,000 per year. We would also request that some consideration is given to subcontractor past performance.

Response: OASIS SB is designed to accommodate complex, integrated projects. Anything below the \$150,000 per year does not usually fall in that category. Therefore, we will not change the minimum standard of \$150,000 per year threshold.

Response to the second question: There are several reasons we cannot and will not give consideration to subcontractor experience. As previously stated, OASIS SB is designed to accommodate complex, integrated projects. Essentially, we are looking for contractors who have proven themselves as prime contractors to perform these types of tasks. Furthermore, this is an on-ramp, not a new solicitation. The on-ramp provisions, which were articulated in the original solicitation, stated that on-ramps would be essentially the same as the original solicitation. Accordingly, we do not feel that it is proper to significantly change the criteria from the original solicitation.

5. I am very interested in the OASIS Program Pool 2 for NAICS 541211, I am very confused on what I need to submit before 1/10/17? I have the Pool Application, do not know where to submit?

Response: Please refer to Section L.3 of the solicitation –

L.3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

(a) This Solicitation closes and proposals are due on Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

(b) Proposals may be mailed or hand delivered to:

**General Services Administration (GSA)
Federal Acquisition Service (FAS)
OASIS Program Management Office (OASIS PMO)
Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building
Attn: Valerie Bindel (OASIS SB Contracting Officer)
13th Floor, Suite 13A33
819 Taylor Street
Ft. Worth, TX 76102**

6. If our company wants to bid on more than one NAICS code within Pool 2, do we need to submit a proposal for every solicitation sharing that NAICS code?

Response: No, only one proposal is required with the 2 pool qualifying projects. If you receive an award under Pool 2, this makes you eligible to bid on any RFP issued within Pool 2 under any of the associated NAICS codes.

7. I wanted to know if this solicitation was looking for a former DCAA CPAs that can do the work and if so, how do I submit a proposal.

Response: We are not looking for former Government employees. We are looking for proven contractors with experience in one or more of the OASIS SB Pool 2 NAICS codes. Please see the Instructions to Offerors in Section L in the solicitation.

8. I believe you said 5-past projects showing relevant experience for a minimum of \$750,000 is mandatory to be considered, and that the lowest revenue generated from the project cannot be lower than \$150,000. Can you confirm?

Response: Please see Modification 3 posted on FBO on November 17th, 2016 which removes the \$750,000 dollar threshold and only requires that projects be at least \$150,000 per year.

9. Please help us to understand the difference between OASISSBPOOL2ONRAMP-1, 2, 3 & 4. They all seem the same?

Response: There is no difference. This was done as a separate posting for each NAICS Code under Pool 2 in order to ensure notification reached each industry group. FedBizOpps is not designed to allow for multiple NAICS code solicitations, so alternative methods had to be developed.

10. In other federal and DoD solicitations, past performance is not pass/fail but is simply not scored if there is none. As a WOSB/SDVOSB with successful performance as a federal subk I am disappointed I still cannot onramp to OASIS Pool 2 based on my reading, that 3-5 PRIME past performance at \$750K avg annual revenue will be a pass/fail evaluation factor -- is this correct? Do you think perhaps Pool 2 is not able to attract enough smalls with this restrictive barrier to entry?

Response: Please see other responses to questions regarding the average dollar value of projects as well as experience as a Prime Contractor.

11. When self scoring lines 82-86 and considering sub-contractors we are using task orders from a major IDIQ. Our IDIQ has the actual subcontracting agreements for our 3: 11th Hour, KPMG, some ICAs, and our video team mate however, at the task order level we do not have them specifically spelled out because the government has allowed us the flexibility of the IDIQ to solve the task order work. To "confirm or validate" a subcontractor agreement for our self scoring task orders is it okay to reference the IDIQ subcontracting agreement?

Response: No. Any subcontractor agreement being used for validation purposes must clearly and specifically identify which task orders it applies to.

12. If a Joint Venture submits a proposal, can the past performance of the two entities be considered the past performance of the Joint Venture?

Response: No. Please see Section L.5.1.10, Existing Partnership or Joint Venture, if applicable for guidance regarding Joint Ventures.

13. The social research NAICS is significantly different than the other financial/accounting-related. NAICS – what is the thinking behind including it in Pool 2 vs. Pool 1? Do you encourage social research firms to submit under Oasis if they don't have the financial/accounting expertise?

Response: The Pools are based upon Small Business Size Standards. All of the NAICS in Pool 2 have identical small business size standards. We understand that there will be a mix of R&D companies and financial/accounting companies within the Pool and have faith that companies will pursue the type of work their respective company performs. If we need to develop separate Pools to segregate the different industries in the future, we have the ability to do that. A company does not need experience in all NAICS codes within Pool 2 in order to submit a proposal, so yes, social research firms are encouraged to submit their proposals.

14. Are socio-economic JVs welcome to the contract?

Response: JVs who have proven performance as a joint venture are welcome to apply. Please see Section L.5.1.10, Existing Partnership or Joint Venture, if applicable for guidance regarding Joint Ventures.

15. Does GSA know when the other on ramps for the other pools is expected?

Response: We are currently conducting an onramp for Pool 2 OASIS SB. Once that is completed, we plan to conduct an onramp for OASIS Unrestricted Pool 2. We know we will be doing an onramp at the 5 year mark (small business re-certification) in 2019 as a lot of the current small business OASIS SB primes will outgrow their small business size standard. At this time, we do not have any definite plans for any other pool in the near future but things can always change so keep an eye out on FedbizOpps for any onramping announcements. There is information on our website as well at www.gsa.gov/oasis under the tab "How to get on OASIS" for more information.

16. In the event an offeror ranks in the top 31 highest technically rated and holds certifications in multiple socio-economic subgroups, what criteria will be used to determine which set-aside category the offeror will be assigned to?

Response: You will be eligible to compete for all Socio-economic groups that you certify as in the Reps and Certs once validated by our office.

17. Do you anticipate making any 8a awards for pool 2 SB?

Response: We plan on making 31 awards regardless of socio-economic group. There are already three 8(a) contractors in OASIS SB Pool 2, so any 8(a) awarded companies resulting from this onramp will not be a result of the partial set-aside for the socio-economic category, but rather from their own merit.

18. If you want to expand to 31 holders - can you not limit it to only those NAICS codes - perhaps this was the reason for only 9 awards in the original.

Response: The NAICS codes identified in Pool 2 are based on small business size standards. At this time we are only seeking proposals under Pool 2 NAICS codes.

19. Would you repeat your comment about \$20.5 million eligibility threshold?

Response: \$20.5 million is the small business size standard for all NAICS under Pool 2.

20. Did you say participants have to have \$25M in annual revenue to bid as prime?

Response: No.

21. Will GSA OASIS contracting office suggest other federal agencies to use another acq strategy or vehicle for small requirements (\$200-300K/yr) for the NAICS in POOL 2?

Response: We designed OASIS SB for complex, integrated requirements. When we see requirements not fitting this description, we frequently recommend other vehicles like GSA Schedules. However, final decision on contract vehicle utilization is the discretion of the Ordering Contracting Officer.

22. Can a JV be used to bid the contract with one large business with a small business?

Response: No. Please see Section L.5.1.10, Existing Partnership or Joint Venture, if applicable for guidance regarding Joint Ventures.

23. In section L.5.3.2.6 and M.5.1.6 Ancillary Support: We plan to claim Training for 4 of our task orders and in L.5.3.2.6 it is defined as (a) not in primary scope of PWS, for validation, if the ancillary support (training in this case) if it is not in the PWS, how will the government confirm our ancillary support?

Response: In order to receive credit for any ancillary support, it must be clearly identified in the PWS or some other documentation such as a monthly status report.

24. Does an offeror need to have experience in all NAICS codes in order to respond?

Response: No. You must submit 2 Pool qualifying projects with at least one of the identified NAICS under Pool 2.

25. Can you confirm that the \$20.5M size standard is based on a three-year average of company revenue?

Response: Confirmed.

26. Are prime contracts performed on GSA schedules eligible as past performance?

Response: Yes

27. Is there a notional minimum point score RANGE expected for Pool 2?

Response: No, since Pool 2 did not get filled up initially we do not have anticipated scoring range for this pool.

28. For the 9 firms already on the Pool 2 contract, please share the threshold point value if possible?

Response: We cannot share this information.

29. The NAICS code on FBO is listed as 541330 but this NAICS was not listed.

Response: This NAICS code was listed for the original solicitation. Please look at Modification 2 and 3 only for the onramp solicitation for Pool 2.

30. Can you apply under two separate NAICS codes? If so, should it be two separate proposals?

Response: No, only one proposal is required with the 2 pool qualifying projects. If you receive an award under Pool 2, this makes you eligible to compete for any RFP issued under Pool 2 regardless of NAICS code.

31. What is the number of current awardees by categories (i.e. Women-Owned)?

Response: Please go to our website at www.gsa.gov/oasis and go to the tab "Who is on OASIS". There is a listing there of contractors by socioeconomic groups.

32. Will commercial contract work qualify as Prime Contract experience?

Response: Commercial work (not subcontractor work performed under a Government contract) is considered prime experience. However, commercial contract work counts toward Relevant Experience projects only, it does not count for Pool Qualifying projects.

33. Can you repeat the amount needed in annual revenue to participate?

Response: There is no minimum amount of revenue needed to participate. You just cannot exceed the \$20.5 million dollar threshold in order to be considered small in this Pool.

34. If you meet the \$20.5M revenue requirement at proposal submission (Jan 10, 2017) do you stay in the SB pool if subsequently you grow beyond that revenue cap.

Response: For the purposes of OASIS SB, your company will remain small until it is time to re-certify in June of 2019.

35. Would using 1099 independent contractors count toward subcontracting?

Response: Yes, as long as the 1099 clearly identifies the task order you are referencing.

36. Would you be able to provide an award time frame for this on-ramp?

Response: We anticipate announcing awards late February 2017.

37. Can a LB who adds one of the Pool 2 NAICS qualify as a SB in that NAICS and therefore compete in this onramp?

Response: The designation of "small" and "other than small" is relevant to the NAICS code you are referring to. If you are considered small under the NAICS codes associated with OASIS SB Pool 2, then you are welcome to submit a proposal.

38. Please confirm that a contract with one of the relevant PSC codes may be used as a Pool 2 qualifying contract, even if its primary NAICS code is not one of the 5.

Response: Yes, you may use PSC codes.

39. In some circumstances, our past performance as a major subcontractor may be significant in scope and dollar amount. Would the Government please consider creating a dollar amount and/or scope threshold to enable evaluation of an offeror's past performance as a subcontractor?

Response: No, we cannot significantly change the criteria from the original solicitation where only Prime experience was required. Please see the other responses regarding consideration of experience as a subcontractor.

40. For the financial data can we select a cut-off date for accounting staff so it is uniform, like December 31, 2016?

Response: Yes.

41. Can we submit early if ready?

Response: Yes, you may. However, it is not recommended. Please note we may be posting additional amendments that may change requirements in the solicitation. Your proposal submission will have to acknowledge all solicitation amendments.

42. For Secondary Projects, can an offeror claim points for a prime contract in different mission spaces that are not in the Pool 2 NAICS or PSC codes?

Response: Yes

43. For Past Performance is the minimum revenue \$150K annually?

Response: For Relevant Experience projects, yes.

44. Does the minimum point score for this on-ramp have any relationship to the minimum point score (not identified by OASIS) for the previous 9 awardees?

Response: No. We do not have a minimum point score for Pool 2.

45. Will you be using SBA to verify company size standard? I'm asking since you've said several times that a company's annual revenues cannot exceed \$20.5M - isn't it three year average or is it based on 2015 audited financials or filed tax returns for this on ramp?

Response: Yes it is based on a 3 year average. SBA will only get involved if another company or the CO challenges your size standard claim.

46. Please confirm that an offeror can use NAICS or PSC codes for relevant experience?

Response: Confirmed.

47. For Tax preparation services in which a company in a year can average over \$ 400,000 in income filling several tax returns for companies and individuals, how do report this as a past performance?

Response: These individual services are considered separate projects.

48. Please confirm that a contract that has been reawarded in a competitive recompetes qualify as 2 contracts (the original award and the new award).

Response: This is correct. Both projects can be used.

49. Will DC Government experience qualifies as Federal Government experience?

Response: No, state and local government does not count towards Federal experience.

50. Can a small business submit a proposal as a prime on one proposal and submit a second time as a subcontractor with another small business as the prime?

Response: Only prime experience will be considered in any proposal.

51. How do you define 54219 - Other Accounting Services? For example, will providing grant financial accounting services to a federal government agency qualifies under this code?

Response: All the NAICS Codes available under Pool 2 are defined in Section A.1.2. of the solicitation. Also, see <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>

52. So far how many RFQs have come out in Pool 2 for the social research NAICS 541720?

Response: Please go to www.gsa.gov/oasis for a complete list of awards under Pool 2.

53. If the past performance is done for the US Virgin Islands Government, can this satisfy the government criteria?

Response: Yes. The US Government includes all US Territories as well.

54. If you retired from IRS with 32 years of experience preparing tax returns, auditing and having a BBA Accounting count toward your business Relevant Experience?

Response: No. Only the contracts/projects performed by the company can count.

55. Will a Federal Government Grant example DoS qualify as a Federal Contract and be accepted as Prime contract work?

Response: No, grants are not contracts and therefore will not be considered.

56. The 6 core disciplines have a list of services listed under them. Does a project only need to hit one of those services in order to claim experience for the associated core discipline?

Response: Yes.

57. How far back can we go for counting the experience and performances?

Response: 5 years from the proposal due date.

58. If the other accounting services task is described in detail at a PWS Task level but not by NAICS how will GSA treat that?

Response: Where NAICS codes are required, descriptions are irrelevant. Any NAICS designation must be present in FPDS or have a correction or change form from the Contracting Officer. There is no exception to this.

59. How is an Oasis contract different than our standard GSA contract vehicle?

Response: OASIS is a completely different contract type than a GSA Schedule contract and issued under completely different authority. OASIS was awarded under FAR Part 15 and ordering procedures fall under FAR 16.505. GSA Schedules are awarded under FAR Part 38 and ordering procedures fall under FAR Part 8.4. OASIS SB is NOT a GSA Schedule contract.

60. Can state and/or local government contracts count towards Pool Qualification experience & past performance?

Response: No, only Federal government past performance count for Pool Qualification projects.

61. The Oasis dashboard lists total # of task orders and total value of task orders by agency or industry partner. It doesn't list which pool it was issued under. Is there a way to find the number of tasks/dollar value by NAICS?

Response: Please try the dashboard again. All of the information you are seeking should be there.

62. If we get on Oasis 2, can we compete for work in Pool 1?

Response: No. You can only compete in the Pool you have been awarded.

63. What type of services are CPAs providing under Pool 2?

Response: All types. Accounting services, audits etc.

64. Can a new Pool 2 awardee sub to any small in the same socio economic or do they need to be assigned at time of award?

Response: We encourage for OASIS primes to subcontract with anyone they feel will bring the best solution for the client and the requirement.

65. Can separate task orders from a MATO contract suffice for 2 projects minimum for Pool qualification?

Response: Yes.

66. What is the average OASIS Pool 2 award to date?

Response: Please go to our website and take a look at the OASIS Dashboard. All awards are posted there.

67. I provide audit and tax for a Janitor company for U.S. Air Force. Does this count towards experience?

Response: No. It would only count if you had direct prime experience with the Air Force.

68. You previously mentioned that an on-ramp for OASIS Unrestricted POOL 2 is anticipated to be conducted after this on-ramp. Will it be done in FY2017

Response: That is what we anticipate.

69. Is DFAS expected to use OASIS?

Response: This is a Government wide contract, therefore any government entity can use it.

70. Are there three EDWOSBs currently in Pool 2?

Response: Please check our website at www.gsa.gov/oasis for a listing of all of the socio-economic categories under each Pool.

71. What type of social sciences research & development projects are tasked?

Response: Please check FBO to see what type of work is being done by the Government for R&D in the social sciences.

72. Primary projects can get additional points for CPAR ratings. Are the additional points given per project or for the projects cumulatively? For example (only) if you can get 100 points for CPAR ratings between 3.75 and 4.0, is that per project or the average of all projects have to be between 3.75 and 4.0?

Response: CPAR ratings are submitted per project.

73. Can you repeat what the limitation on subcontracting is per task order issued under pool 2? Did you say it's at the master IDIQ level?

Response: The Limitation of Subcontracting for a small business set aside states that the prime must perform 50% of the work at the contract level under OASIS SB. Since each Pool is a separate contract, this means that the prime contractor must perform 50% or more of the cumulative work done under OASIS SB Pool 2. Specific limitations on subcontracting clauses apply to individual task orders when the task orders are socio-economic set-asides or socio-economic direct awards.

74. Must each pool project have a full year of performance?

Response: Must have at least 1 year of performance unless one of the following situations exist:

The Project has a completed CPARS.

The Project has a completed Award Fee Determination.

The Project had a base period of performance less than 1 year and that period of performance is complete.

75. Section L 5.3.1 paragraph 7.b. states "The combined annual value all Projects combined must be equal to or greater than \$750 Thousand per year times the number of Projects submitted. For example, if three Projects are submitted, the combined annual value must be equal to or greater than \$2.25 Million per year; if four Projects are submitted, the combined annual value must be equal to or greater than \$3.00 Million per year; if five Projects are submitted, the combined annual value must be equal to or greater than \$3.75 Million per year. It has been stated in this discussion that the combined annual value of all projects combined must be equal to or greater than \$750K per year, however the additional text from L.5.3.1 has not been referenced. and it has been stated multiple times in this discussion that \$750K is the minimum requirement for the combined annual value of all submitted Primary Relevant experience projects. Please confirm that the text from L.5.3.1 is correct.

Response: Please see Modification 3 posted on FBO which removes the requirement for the value to equal or be greater than \$750,000.

76. What if you don't get 31 pool qualified applicants?

Response: Then we will award to those qualified applicants we do have.

77. Please confirm if a subcontracting plan (if we ever have one for OASIS) must be submitted on the IDIQ proposal. Are there points given to a proposal that includes a subcontracting plan?

Response: Subcontracting Plans are not required for small business concerns. Additional points are not given if a small business submits a subcontracting plan with their proposal.

78. Does OASIS require an FCL?

Response: If you are referring to a Facility Clearance - There are no mandatory levels of facility security clearance for Contractors under OASIS; however, task orders may require a FCL at any level, under OASIS SB and there are extra points awarded to companies that have an FCL.

79. Is the OASIS fee incremental and in addition to the GSA IFF Fee?

Response: The GSA IFF fee is the fee for GSA Schedules. It is .75%. OASIS has a tiered Contract Access Fee which ranges from .1%-.75% and is separate from GSA Schedules. Clients use one contract vehicle or the other so both fees do not apply to one task order.

80. You indicated that if the applicant doesn't qualify for Pool 2, that there is a "proving ground" to get experience with Government Contracts. Would you say again what that program is called?

Response: It is called GSA Schedules. Please visit www.gsa.gov for more information.

81. We have 2 relevant experience (primary) projects that meet the OASIS SB Pool 2 on-ramp requirements, however we are a little unsure of the 3rd project we plan to submit to meet the relevant experience (primary) projects requirement because it began on 2/1/2016 and will end on 1/31/2017. Would this qualify as 1 of the 3 Relevant Experience (Primary) projects?

Response: No. The project must be at least a year along unless the period of performance is less than a year and the period of performance is complete.

82. We understand that the two projects submitted for "Pool Qualification" will be the same as two of the projects submitted for the "Relevant Experience (Primary)" project requirement – is our interpretation correct?

Response: No. The Pool Qualification projects CAN be the same as the Relevant Experience projects, but they do not have to be.

83. With regard to the calculation of CPAR ratings, M.5.2.4 Past Performance Scoring Examples (pages 118-120) uniformly do not include Regulatory Compliance as an adjectival rating element, and FAR 42.1503(b)(2) also does not include Regulatory Compliance as a required evaluation factor. There are instances in which the government has elected to rate Regulatory Compliance in our CPARS and has treated it as a pass/fail element (i.e., rating it Satisfactory). This has the ultimate effect of artificially lowering our CPARS valuation and reducing our ability to achieve additional OASIS points. Will the government confirm that it is acceptable to exclude Regulatory Compliance from our points calculation?

Response: While we are sympathetic to your situation, we have to hold the same standard to all evaluations. If an area is rated in CPARS, it will be factored into the associated scores in OASIS SB evaluations.

84. Reference: Section L.5.3 paragraph b 1, pages 89 and 90. Do the minimum three (3) Relevant Experience (Primary) Projects need to be relevant to the PSC / NAICS codes that a Pool Qualifiers, or do they need to be Prime projects that have matching PSC / NAICS Codes to the Pool Qualifiers?

Response: No. The relevant experience projects CAN be performed under the PSC/NAICS codes and get more points for doing so, but are not required to be. Pool qualifying projects must be performed under one of the OASIS SB Pool 2 PSC/NAICS codes.

85. If we were to have our client submit a CPARS rating for the project that is just shy of meeting the 1 year requirement, it is our understanding that this project would satisfy the requirement to be bid as the third relevant experience (primary) project. Is that correct?

Response: Correct.